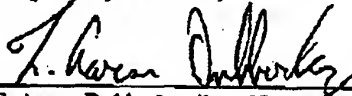


REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement made in the Office Action mailed March 17, 2004. This restriction requirement divides the claims into Group I, Claims 1-18, 25-29, 31 and 33-36, drawn to an expression cassette, a recombinant host cell, and a process for the preparation of an exogenous protein or proteins; and Group II, Claims 19-24, 30 and 32, drawn to a process for selective biochemical oxidation and a process for the preparation of hydrocortisone. The restriction requirement incorrectly characterizes these two groups as being related as product and process of use. As can be seen from the description above, *both* groups contain process claims. Furthermore, the rationale presented by the Office Action for the distinctness of the inventions defined by the two groups, that the expression cassette of Group I could be used as a hybridization probe, in addition to being useful for the process of Group II, addresses only one small part of the claim scope in Group I. Even if this rationale were sufficient for the expression cassette claims of Group I, it would certainly fail to make the case that the recombinant host cell and process claims of Group I are distinct inventions from the process claims of Group II. Accordingly, this restriction requirement is in error. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested.

In the event that the above arguments are not found persuasive and the restriction requirement is not withdrawn, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, drawn to an expression cassette, a recombinant host cell, and a process for the preparation of an exogenous protein or proteins, as exemplified by Claims 1-18, 25-29, 31 and 33-36.

Respectfully submitted,

  
F. Aaron Dubberley, Reg. No. 41001  
Attorney/Agent for Applicant

Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc.  
Patent Department  
Route #202-206 / P.O. Box 6800  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807-0800  
Telephone (908) 231-3737  
Telefax (908) 231-2626

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